

In the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0077] and [0078] with the following:

[0077] Provided for the purpose of automatic tracking of the visualization apparatus or of the endoscope 100 is a positioning device 160 ~~(not illustrated)~~ which tracks the endoscope 100 as a function of the position of the operating instrument 148, for example as a function of the position of the tip 150 of the operating instrument 148, in such a way that the tip 150 of the operating instrument 148 always appears in the second image field 116, in which the tip 150 of the operating instrument 148 is imaged in a magnified fashion.

[0078] If, when being manipulated, the operating instrument 148 moves during a surgical operation in such a way that the tip 150 comes to lie outside the image field 116, for example at a site provided with the reference numeral 152, the positioning device 160 becomes active and tracks the endoscope 100 such that the tip 150 appears again in the image field 116, that is to say in a magnified fashion. As long as the tip 150 appears in the image field 116, the positioning device 160 is inactive, that is to say a movement of the tip 150 in the image field 116 preferably does not lead to tracking of the endoscope 100. The positioning device 160 has appropriate position sensors in order appropriately to detect the position of the tip 150 of the operating instrument 148. The positioning device 160 can be controlled as appropriate by the image processing unit.